

The Observer

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Those Habits of Youth Are Our Anchors

The other day we passed a La Grande business man who is well fixed with this world's goods and he was hacking up a bunch of tree branches for fireplace wood. The branches he had cut from his shade trees in the usual course of pruning them. He spent several hours cutting up the twigs and branches just the right lengths—why? Well, here's the answer: Another neighbor passed and chided the man for spending his time foolishly, asked him if he had not wood, when as a matter of fact there was a basement filled with the best wood from Union county forests. After the neighbor who did the chiding had passed on, these remarks fell from the lips of the man who was chopping away at the branches and twigs: "I am not too old to get provoked at the man who kids and joshes another man because he is economical, but down deep I feel that is one of America's great faults—lack of economy and no desire to inculcate and instill the great principle of saving what we have. I was brought up to waste nothing. The envelopes that come in my mail each day I slit and save the smooth half for scratch paper; these twigs and branches could have been hauled away with the rubbish, but when I was in France I saw how people save firewood and the old lesson of economy asserted itself to me and here I am, with a hatchet, saving these twigs. It is not the money value of such things that counts, it is the habit of being economical. I believe it is a great habit, it is an anchor, and I would not give it up for anything."

The Shipping Mess

The most obvious thing about the shipping situation is that the government has lost a lot of money. Hardly less obvious is the fact that as long as the government continues in the shipping business, it is going to keep on losing money. It may lose less than it has been losing lately, through better management and better times, but it can hardly hope ever to make the ships pay on the basis of what they cost, or in fair competition with private enterprise. It is agreed that the government could not help going into the shipping business, and going in on a big scale. It was one of the necessary steps to win the war. There had to be a big fleet of transports and freighters, to take the American troops across the Atlantic and keep him supplied, and to replace the heavy war losses inflicted on allied shipping. Whether it was necessary to pay all that was paid for them during the war is now a profitless question. It may be questioned more fairly whether it was right to continue building and operating ships long after the armistice, but that, too, is now past history, and of little profit except as a lesson for the future. Downright incompetence is to be exposed and condemned, wherever it may appear. Downright crookedness, if any is found, is to be punished without mercy. But the outstanding need of the present situation is to proceed immediately to clean up the whole mess and then forget it. Honest debts, whether incurred wisely or unwisely, necessarily or unnecessarily, have to be paid. Let the government pay them, and then dispose of the fleet on its hands as rapidly as circumstances permit, merely making sure that the ships sold will remain under the American flag and that there will be shipbuilding facilities left at the disposal of the government hereafter if it should need them. With all this out of the way, the government can turn its attention profitably to things better adapted to governmental management.

If it is dollar what there will be quite a lot of money in circulation, after all. But there will be no profit in it.

Costs of Building

And do you really expect low costs on building to obtain again in the northwest—such low costs as we had years ago? Well, if you do you have another guess coming. Lumber is selling now—at least some grades—for less money than it brought in La Grande in 1913. If there ever was a time to build cheaply from a lumber standpoint it is now, yet people are not building because it is claimed the cost is excessive, and we grant that when all is figured in the cost is high. But what of the future? Just the moment the big east begins taking our lumber the price will advance. It will have to advance because mills are selling now below cost in order to move their product. Then up will come the price of lumber. Labor may go down a little, but not like it once was—no there you have it. People will never be able to build as cheaply as they once built. The man who has a home today has a greater valuation by reason of these conditions. The man who duplicates the house built seven years ago will continue to pay fifty per cent more for some time to come. There is no other way to figure it.

Women Farmers

Some surprise has been expressed at the extent to which American women have gone in for farming, as shown by last year's census report. There are about 282,500 women operating farms in this country. About one farm in every 25 is run by a woman. These feminist farms are mostly in New England and the South, and average about 100 acres in extent. There is really no occasion for surprise. A farmer's wife is usually more competent to run her husband's business than any other type of woman. She knows about it. She is her husband's working partner, whether he realizes it or not, and she is accustomed to working as hard as her mate, if not harder. All farm women know about farming far more than the women of any other industrial or professional group know about the business from which their living comes. It is natural that when a farm, for any reason is deprived of its male operator, and there is no other immediately in sight, a wife or daughter or mother or sister should step in, and make a success of it. We are likely to have more women farmers hereafter, and they are likely to be among the most progressive farmers of their communities.

A Dangerous Practice

In many parts of the city property owners show a woeful lack of good judgment in that they allow tall grass to grow up on their premises and in close proximity to their homes and once set ablaze by a lighted cigar or cigarette, would destroy much valuable property. At this time of year the grass and weeds has about matured and is going through the drying process. It is as inflammable as oil and readily catches the spark of a match. Unless cut down and cleared away it stands as a menace to fire protection and a tribute to the lack of good sense of the citizen who is indifferent to danger or too lazy to get away with what may be the cause of his home being destroyed.

FORUM

Believes Jury Gave Correct Verdict

ENTERPRISE, Ore., July 23.—To the Editor: My attention has been called to an interview of John S. Hodgkin, in a recent issue of the Observer, criticizing the verdict of the jury in the case of State vs. Keelen and Dowley, so far as the conviction of Keelen is concerned, in which the jury found both of the defendants guilty of the larceny of a car belonging to "Kentuck" Robertson. As these verdicts were rendered by juries in my court, and as I consider the criticism of the jury in the Keelen case very unfair and unjust, I consider it my duty to say a word in defense of the verdict of the jury in this case. Any intimation that the jury convicted the defendant Keelen upon insufficient evidence is a direct charge that the members of the jury violated their oaths, when upon their examination as to their qualifications to act as jurors they swore that they would try the case according to the law and evidence, and that they would not convict the defendant unless satisfied of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The jury in this case was accepted by the defendant Keelen after a thorough examination of each juror as to his impartiality. The jury was composed of the best citizens of Union County. It is reasonable to suppose that all twelve of them would violate their oaths and convict the defendant upon insufficient testimony and testimony that did not convince them beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant, Keelen's, guilt? Especially is this true when one considers that the defendant was represented by R. J. Green whom I consider to be one of the best trial lawyers in the state, and an attorney who tries his cases

THE OFFICE CAT



—BY JUNIOR—

OFFICE CAT

After Rudyard Kipling When the husband faces helpmeet every morning in debate, And he's trying to explain to her why he was out so late. There is never any question that his argument will fail, For the female of the species can talk longer than the male. When the argument is hottest and they get down to brass tacks, And they land each other's relatives a lot of pungent whacks! You would think that hers were angels and that his should be in jail, For the female of the species can think faster than the male. When they're backing up the hood, He's earned throughout the week, And deciding how to spend it, he's a pretty helpless geek; It is sad for him to look at his percentage of the kale. For the female of the species can grab quicker than the male. When they do their weekly shopping and they linger 'round the store, 'Till the husband thinks that living is a most decided bore; She can take a 50-cent piece and get dry goods by the bale. For the female of the species can buy cheaper than the male. Some people are so all-fired lazy that they ride in a fliover so they won't have to take the trouble to shake the ashes off their cigars. "Who is the ideal woman?" asks a noseys columnist. Modesty forbids that we sing our family praises in too loud a key, but just at this minute—5:34 o'clock—she is singing light heartedly over a batch of cream biscuits so good and toothsome that we never dast show them in the courts instead of in the newspapers. It seems to me that Mrs. Hodgkin unwittingly and unintentionally gives too much credit to District Attorney Wright and Mr. Ringo, who assisted in the prosecution, when he asserts that they secured the conviction of Keelen upon insufficient evidence. The resume of the testimony by Mr. Hodgkin, in his interview, contains only garbled portions of the testimony in the case, and not all the evidence upon which the jury rendered the verdict. A motion was made by Keelen to set aside the verdict, and grant him a new trial and among other reasons urged was that the verdict was not justified by the evidence. This motion was denied by me after argument. Should the Supreme Court upon appeal reverse this conviction, it will be no reflection upon the verdict of the jury, but if reversed it will be upon errors committed by me upon the trial, and for any reversal I will assume the whole responsibility and will not attempt to cast the blame upon the jurors, for whose integrity I have the highest regard, and believe that they did their duty, under the evidence and the law given them by the court. J. W. KNOWLES.

Is For Lower Prices

Editor La Grande Observer: It gives me pleasure to compliment you and your paper on the stand taken in regard to the prices charged by the barbers in this town. When we get a few more men to speak their minds like you have, the suffering victims will come into their own again. Yours truly, A VICTIM.

'Round The County

Incidents with Human Interest Attached, Gathered by The Observer. TRAP FOR MOTH IS O. K. Joseph Ainsworth who lives in May Park has tried out an experiment that came to his attention about the handling of codling moth, and he has pronounced it O. K. It is simply a matter of teasing the destructive pest into a fruit jar where it is drowned. The proposition first came to his attention through the

to any unscrupulous friends of ours for fear he'll trump up charges against us and try to get her to elope.

The Wedding

Her hair was red, her eyes were blue She was pigeon-toed and knock-kneed, too. But I had no money, and I was broke Hadn't a thing that I could soak—So we were married.—Salem Capitol News.

He had no hair, his eyes were brown, He was ugly as sin and wore a frown But he had money and I had none And something really had to be done So we were married.—Junius.

An honest butcher will trim his meats but not his customers.

The attendance of irate and banked stockholders at a meeting of a defunct mining corporation in Chicago, Saturday, reached the 500 mark.

The Versatile Mr. Dubame Butte (Mont.) Daily Post Mr. Dubame was formerly Miss Hazel Cather of West Daly-street.

The Crawfordville (Ind.) Review speaks of a "popular school teacher." She must be blind and deaf, or else things have changed wonderfully since we went to school.

And by the way, Placerville, Cal., boasts of being the only town in the United States which has a blind policeman. It might be very embarrassing if Placerville were called upon to prove it.

There are star reporters and star advertising men, but as yet we have never heard of a star proof reader.

Gibraltar

Miss Kewpie: "Pepper, ye are the salt of the earth." Mr. Pepper: "Do you think you could ever get along without me?" Kewpie: "No, dear, I need thee every hour."

Oh would the Powers the Giffie gie

To see oursel's as others see us. . . A car from California and one from Idaho parked along Adams avenue this afternoon at about the same time. Both contained a man and a woman. The men both left the car and then the California woman turned around and said to her fellow traveller: "How do you like this town?" "Don't like it, it's a dirty town," replied the Idahoan. "Yes, it's certainly a dirty hole, in fact the dirtiest I've been in," retorted the lady from the south. (If the ladies from Idaho and California knew their home states as well as we do they'd know plenty of dirtier places than La Grande.—Editor.)

Now what a shame to talk like that.

We know it is not true. For every morning of its life Our city's bathed anew. It's washed in water that is full Of vitrol every day, No self-respecting bug or germ Would live beneath that spray. It's only humans can drink That water and yet live. Although their tummies mighty soon Will look just like a sieve. We wash and purify our streets. And yet, we get no praise. The tourists come and bawl us out— We wonder if it pays.

'Round The County

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TRAP FOR MOTH IS O. K.

Joseph Ainsworth who lives in May Park has tried out an experiment that came to his attention about the handling of codling moth, and he has pronounced it O. K. It is simply a matter of teasing the destructive pest into a fruit jar where it is drowned. The proposition first came to his attention through the

Advertisement for N.W. West & Co. Hosiery. Features 'Phoenix' Hosiery, 'Madame Flanders' Blouses, and 'Silkot' Fabrics. Includes illustrations of women in blouses and shoes.

Deseret News which related an instance of this sort in Grand Junction, Colorado. That paper said: "A novel but what is said to be an effective method of trapping the codling moth is endorsed by J. W. Fox, county crops and pests inspector in the following statement: "The codling moth, the age old problem of the horticulturist, and the cause of worry apples appears to have received a serious setback through the discovery of a Grand Junction fruit grower. "He discovered that the codling moth, which is not attracted by light as are the vast majority of twilight or night flying moths, is attracted by a mixture of vinegar and water. "Under the direction of the county crops and pests inspector, 25 wide mouthed quart fruit jars, two-thirds filled with a solution of one part vinegar and nine parts water were suspended with heavy twine from lower branches of 18 large trees in an orchard west of Murray. This was done on the afternoon of July 6th. Next morning a count of the codling moths trapped and drowned in the solution revealed the astonishing fact that an average of 20 moths per jar had been caught in a single night. "The orchard will now be fully equipped with one jar per tree over the whole tract. "While Salt Lake county orchardists are urged to try this new method of assisting in the control of this pernicious insect, they should by no means fail to supply the third and last spray of the season to apple and pear trees, using three pounds of powdered arsenate of lead per hundred gallons of water, applying with either a spray gun or a mist nozzle. Try Our Eats. A good, quick lunch all ready for you at 11:30 to 1:30. Much better than most lunches. Sold at Al Cain's PALACE CONFECTIONERY COMPANY.

Advertisement for United States National Bank. 'The Sunny Side of The Street'. A savings account puts its owner on the sunny side of life. Includes bank logo and contact information for La Grande, Oregon.

Advertisement for Championship Cove vs. Weiser. Inter-State Base Ball. LA GRANDE BASE BALL PARK. Sunday, July 31. Admission 50c, Grand Stand Free. 'HELP COVE' is the Slogan.

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



LOOKING FOR THE TAXI-MAN WHILE WAITING FOR THE AFTERNOON TRAIN SPEAKS OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS